

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Canceled).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The device for repairing a moving handrail of a passenger conveyor according to Claim [[1]] 8, wherein the heating means has a mold capable of being bonded to an upper surface of the surface portion on an onward side of a path of the moving handrail, and an electric heater for heating the mold.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The device for repairing a moving handrail of a passenger conveyor according to Claim [[1]] 8, further comprising
fixing means having a magnet portion magnetically adsorbed on a railing supporting the moving handrail, for fixing the heating means to the railing.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The device for repairing a moving handrail of a passenger conveyor according to Claim [[1]] 8, further comprising cooling means for cooling the surface portion that has been melted through heating by the heating means.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The device for repairing a moving handrail of a passenger conveyor according to Claim [[1]] 8, further comprising grinding means for grinding down the surface portion before the surface portion is heated by the heating means.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The device for repairing a moving handrail of a passenger conveyor according to Claim [[1]] 8, further comprising a spacer abutting on the

surface portion, for maintaining a predetermined gap between the heating means and the surface portion.

Claim 7 (Original): The device for repairing a moving handrail of a passenger conveyor according to Claim 6, wherein the spacer is a spacer roller for rolling with respect to the surface portion.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): ~~The device for repairing a moving handrail of a passenger conveyor according to Claim 1,~~ A device for repairing a moving handrail of a passenger conveyor, the moving handrail having a surface portion made of a thermoplastic material, comprising:

heating means for melting the surface portion through heating, and wherein the heating means is a heating roller for heating the surface portion while rolling with respect to the surface portion.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): ~~The device for repairing a moving handrail of a passenger conveyor according to Claim 1,~~ A device for repairing a moving handrail of a passenger conveyor, the moving handrail having a surface portion made of a thermoplastic material, comprising:

heating means for melting the surface portion through heating, and further
comprising:

drive means for moving the heating means in a longitudinal direction of the moving handrail.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A method of repairing a moving handrail of a passenger conveyor, the moving handrail having a surface portion made of a cured thermoplastic material, comprising the steps of:

melting a target spot to be repaired of the surface portion through heating; wherein the heating is performed by a heating roller for heating the surface portion while rolling with respect to the surface portion, and
curing the target spot again.

Claim 11 (Original): The method of repairing a moving handrail of a passenger conveyor according to Claim 10, wherein the target spot is heated at a temperature of 180°C to 200°C.

Claim 12 (Original): The method of repairing a moving handrail of a passenger conveyor according to Claim 10, wherein the target spot is melted through heating after having been moved to a linear portion of a path of the moving handrail.

Claim 13 (Original): The method of repairing a moving handrail of a passenger conveyor according to Claim 10, further comprising the step of removing dirt on the target spot before melting the target spot through heating.

Claim 14 (Original): The method of repairing a moving handrail of a passenger conveyor according to Claim 10, wherein the moving handrail is caused to run while the surface portion is heated so that a heated spot of the surface portion is moved in a longitudinal direction of the moving handrail.

Claim 15 (Original): The method of repairing a moving handrail of a passenger conveyor according to Claim 14, wherein the moving handrail is caused to run at a running speed lower than a running speed during normal operation.

Claim 16 (New): The device for repairing a moving handrail of a passenger conveyor according to Claim 9, wherein the heating means has a mold bonded to an upper surface of the surface portion on an onward side of a path of the moving handrail, and an electric heater for heating the mold.

Claim 17 (New): The device for repairing a moving handrail of a passenger conveyor according to Claim 9, further comprising cooling means for cooling the surface portion that has been melted through heating by the heating means.

Claim 18 (New): The device for repairing a moving handrail of a passenger conveyor according to Claim 9, further comprising grinding means for grinding down the surface portion before the surface portion is heated by the heating means.

Claim 19 (New): The device for repairing a moving handrail of a passenger conveyor according to Claim 9, further comprising a spacer abutting on the surface portion, for maintaining a predetermined gap between the heating means and the surface portion.

Claim 20 (New): The device for repairing a moving handrail of a passenger conveyor according to Claim 19, wherein the spacer is a spacer roller for rolling with respect to the surface portion.

Claim 21 (New): A method of repairing a moving handrail of a passenger conveyor, the moving handrail having a surface portion made of a cured thermoplastic material, comprising the steps of:

melting a target spot to be repaired of the surface portion through heating wherein the heating is performed by using a drive means to move the heating device in a longitudinal direction of the moving handrail; by a heating device, and
curing the target spot again.

Claim 22 (New): The method of repairing a moving handrail of a passenger conveyor according to Claim 21, wherein the target spot is heated at a temperature of 180°C to 200°C.

Claim 23 (New): The method of repairing a moving handrail of a passenger conveyor according to Claim 21, wherein the target spot is melted through heating after having been moved to a linear portion of a path of the moving handrail.

Claim 24 (New): The method of repairing a moving handrail of a passenger conveyor according to Claim 21, further comprising the step of removing dirt on the target spot before melting the target spot through heating.

Claim 25 (New): The method of repairing a moving handrail of a passenger conveyor according to Claim 21, wherein the moving handrail is caused to run while the surface portion is heated so that a heated spot of the surface portion is moved in a longitudinal direction of the moving handrail.

Claim 26 (New): The method of repairing a moving handrail of a passenger conveyor according to Claim 25, wherein the moving handrail is caused to run at a running speed lower than a running speed during normal operation.